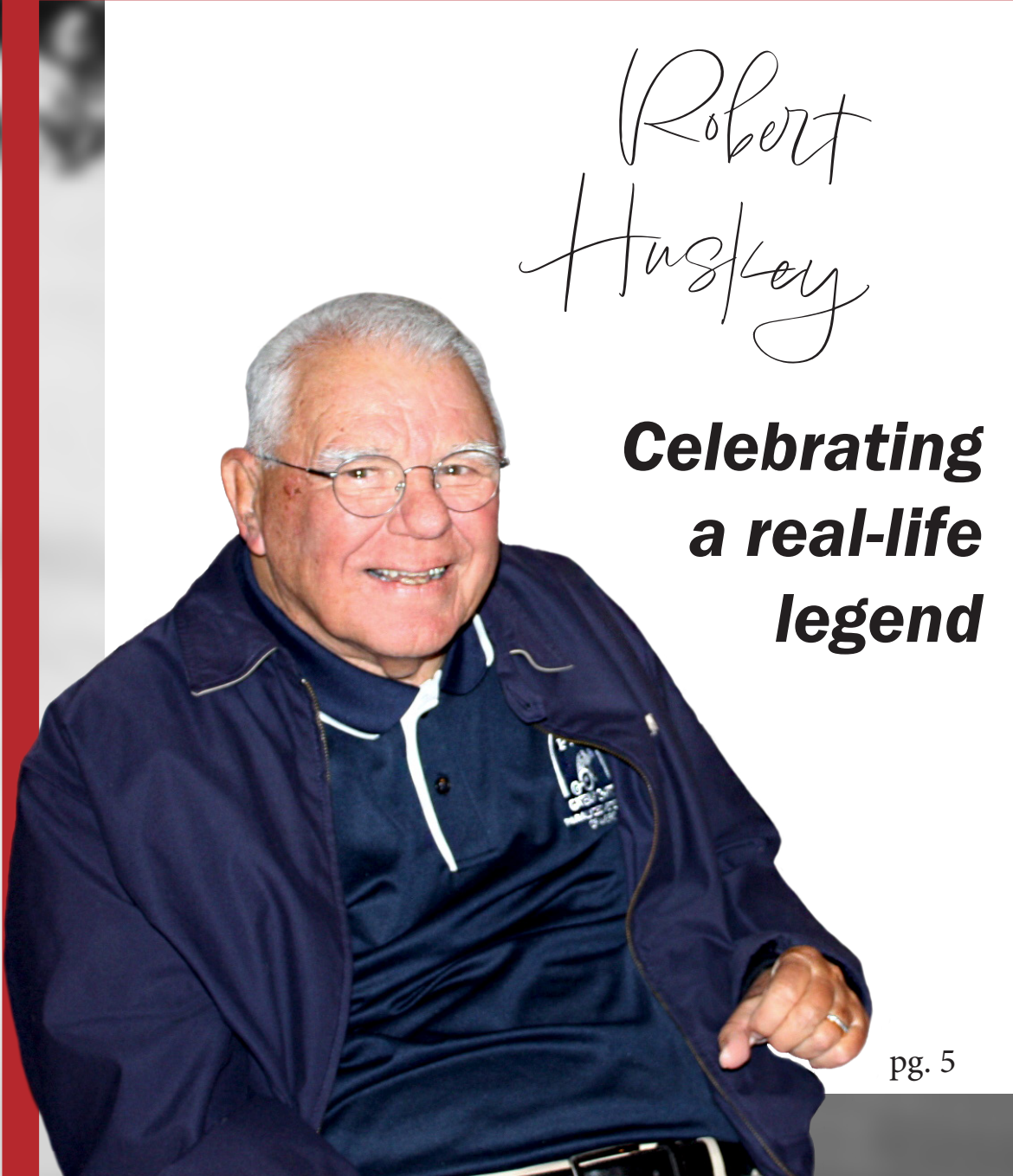


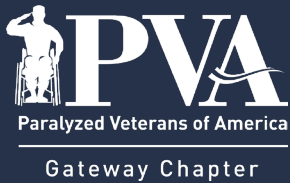
# GATEWAY GAZETTE

Robert  
Huskey

**Celebrating  
a real-life  
legend**



pg. 5



**VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASE, LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST**

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••••

**NEED TO UPDATE  
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?**

••••

**DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE  
YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**

••••

Contact us at one of the following:

Gateway Chapter PVA  
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center  
St. Louis, MO 63132

314.427.0393 or 800.426.4058  
Fax 314.427.4183

info@gatewaypva.org

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Harry Brown, Vice President  
Ken Johanning, Treasurer  
Bram Lucieer, Secretary

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Chad Buder  
Bonnie Hilburn  
Derwin Hollis  
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National Director - Don Feldott  
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Sports Director - Bob Weigand

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Fax: (314) 894-6465

Rodney Harris, Senior Benefits Advocate

**PVA National Liaison VP**

Ken Ness

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rose Ganz

It is that time of year again, the nominations have been made, all that's left is to vote and swear in the FY2025 board members.

Right?

What about *my* responsibility, to see the right people represent us?

What about *my* responsibilities as a board member?

Voting is very important as a member of the board, that is why your attendance is so important. Please look at the following attendance policy instated for all board members:

*As of July 10, 2018:*

“Mike Norris moved that if a board member misses three meetings in a calendar year, that member must explain to the board why it was necessary for the board member to miss those meetings. The reviewing board members will then vote whether or not to remove that board member from office. Doug Barnes seconded and the motion passed. Steve McIntosh moved that the requirement of “Distant Board Members” to attend two meetings in person, per year be reduced to one meeting in person per year. Mike Norris seconded and the motion passed.”

We all have gifts, talents, and special training in areas that may be beneficial to the Gateway Chapter. We need your help with fundraising and recruiting. We need a cheering squad to welcome new members, to share your story of recovery and share the activities available to our SCI veterans!

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## May

### 10 - Local VA Wheelchair Games

9 AM @ JB Building 52

\*Registration due by May 2\*

### 14 - BOD Meeting

15 points for non-BOD members

11:30 AM @ Gateway office & Zoom

### 16 - JB Luncheon

5 points

12 PM @ JB Building 52

### 27 - Office closed for Memorial Day

## June

### 3 - Fiscal Year 2025 Board of Directors Ballots Due

### 11 - BOD Meeting

15 points for non-BOD members

11:30 AM @ Gateway office & Zoom

### 20 - JB Luncheon

5 points

12 PM @ JB Building 52

### 20 - Quarterly Membership Meeting

15 points

1PM @ JB Building 52

*We're Looking for You!*

Have any pictures from PVA events?  
We would love to feature them in the  
Gateway Gazette and on our website!

Email them to [katarina@gatewaypva.org](mailto:katarina@gatewaypva.org)

# Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

Eligible veterans may receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!

## What is Ekso Indego?

A powered exoskeleton that enables individuals with spinal cord injuries (T3-L5)\* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

- Fastest walking speeds
- Lightest weight exoskeleton
- Modular design for easy transportation



VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued at no cost for those who qualify.

## How to Get Qualified

Contact us to find out if you may be eligible. An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of an Ekso Indego Personal device.

\*For full indications for use, visit: [www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/](http://www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/)



Contact Us

**CALL US TODAY**

## WANT TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION?

Consider purchasing ad space in the Gateway Gazette for your business!

# REMEMBER

“I remember meeting Dr. Huskey when I came on the board in 2005, he was the Vice President. Whenever he spoke it was to suggest improvements for our membership. He never stopped caring for membership even after he nominated me for Vice President, he continued to help. Bob was an advocate, often using himself as a guinea pig when traveling, he suffered many mishaps at the hands of the airlines. He did love to travel, he and Bea traveled all over the world. VA Staff would often ask him to share his travel experiences with other spinal-cord injury Veterans to promote interest in outside activity. He was my mentor. I sure do miss him.

My husband, Victor, remembers going to the Wheelchair Games in Anchorage, Alaska with Bob and Bea Huskey. We had a wonderful week and at the airport for our return trip, there was no plane for our 3:20 pm, scheduled flight number. Every two hours the announcement was made that our plane should arrive within the next two hours. Bob was very concerned for the veterans, they needed their medicines, pressure release, and needed to stay hydrated... The only available seating was plastic molded seats bolted to a long bench, and no place to transfer onto that would work for our SCI teammates. Bob's only concern was for His SCI veterans to be taken care of. Bob was stuck in his power chair all night, out of medicine and uncomfortable, until we got a plane the next day at 9 am. I will never forget his compassion for others!” – Rose Ganz

“Bob Huskey has been a friend to me from day one. He was an outstanding mentor and provided a great deal of knowledge to the board and me over the years he was a member of the Gateway Chapter. He was not only a great supporter of PVA, but he was also interested in YOU. He was never one to brag, but was there to listen and give guidance to help you out. Bob is sorely missed by me, and the Gateway Chapter.” - Donald Feldott

“My favorite memory of Bob Huskey was at a Cardinals game, he and his wife were at the game in the accessible section he was responsible for designing. My wife and I attended with the tickets I'd received from the PVA. I felt a little intimidated by Bob since it was the first time I met him, but within minutes he changed that. He was friendly and so down to earth, I was soon comfortable and at ease. I will miss his counsel greatly.”  
- Ken Johanning



# RING

# BOB

“I first met Bob almost 15 years ago and he had an immediate impact on the direction of my life. I didn’t expect it, but that’s what Bob did with almost everyone that he came into contact with. He urged them to challenge their view of things, expand their minds and become better versions of themselves in the process.

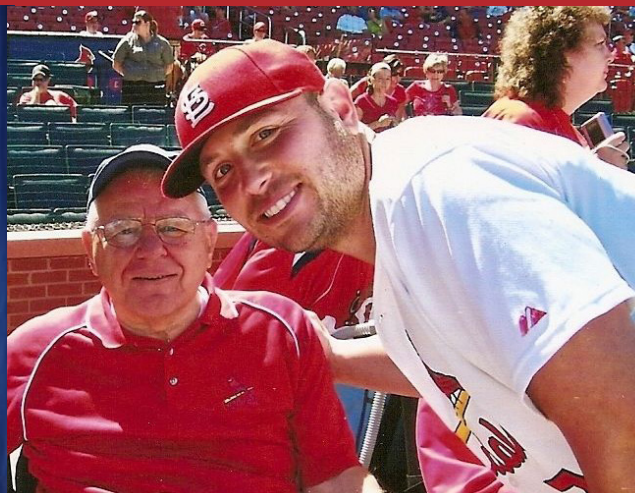
Over the years, I learned that he and Bea had traveled to every corner of the States and had visited countries that I would have thought impossible for him to navigate using a wheelchair. But with characteristic determination, he experienced life as most of us can only hope to do.

Bob was thoughtful, kind, determined and believed in the power of community. But Bob also had a mischievous side. He loved having feeders around his deck so that he could watch the many types of birds that would visit. I’m not saying that he disliked squirrels, but I know for a fact that he did not like the squirrels raiding his bird feeders.

Having said that, one of my favorite memories with Bob included a new “special” type of bird feeder that he had installed on his deck. It was a

morning in November and he invited me to look at his new feeder. I thought, “okay” but what I didn’t know was that it had a battery operated shield designed to discourage squirrels. As we sat in his living room looking out onto the deck, a squirrel approached the feeder on the deck’s handrail. As the squirrel got closer to the feeder Bob said “keep watching.” The squirrel tried to access the feeder but received a small zap from the battery operated shield and jumped about 10 feet off of that feeder. Bob started to chuckle and reminded me never to forget to stand up for what you believe. In that case, it was feeding his birds.

That moment is how I will remember Bob for the rest of my life. I’m going to miss him.” - Chris Blanchard



FY 2025

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

## HOW TO VOTE

1



Fill out the included paper ballot. Vote for 1 person per office, and up to 9 for BOD positions

2



Sign your name and record the last 4 of your SSN

3



Mail the ballot to the Gateway PVA office:  
1311 Lindbergh Plaza  
Center  
Saint Louis, MO 63132

4



Join us at the June BOD meeting to welcome the FY25 BOD!



# We proudly support Gateway PVA



If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. If your current mobility vehicle is more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion. Veterans discounts available. Check out our daily rental rates!

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Each bay holds up to 6 players

**Sponsorship Levels**

**BRONZE**

**\$2,500**

- One bay (6 players)
- 6 Mulligans
- 1 Bay sponsorship signage
- Banquet hall screen time

**SILVER**

**\$5,000**

- Two bays (12 players)
- 8 Mulligans
- 1 Bay sponsorship signage
- Main bay screens & banquet hall screen time

**GOLD**

**\$10,000**

- Two bays (12 players)
- 12 Mulligans
- 2 Bay sponsorship signage
- Main bay screens & banquet hall screen time

Longest drive sponsor - \$1000 | Bar sponsor - \$500 | Bay sponsor - \$200

Tee time at 1:30 PM  
Awards at 4 PM

Questions?  
Contact the office at  
(314)427-0393  
katarina@gatewaypva.org

Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America's 6th Annual

5K

RUN  
WALK  
& ROLL

Sunday, September 15 | Tower Grove Park - Sons of Rest Shelter

JOIN US FOR A 5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN TO HELP FUND PARALYZED VETERANS ACROSS THE GATEWAY AREA!

**Start Time: 9 am**  
**Registration Fee: \$35 Adult**  
**\$25 12 & under**

All proceeds go toward the Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America to further their mission of helping veterans with spinal injury or disease live life to the fullest. For more information about Gateway PVA, go to our website at GatewayPVA.org

Questions? Contact our office at (314)427-0393 or email Chad@gatewaypva.org

Sign up now!



Or visit  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MO/StLouis/GatewayPVA5k1mileRunWalkandRoll>

# SAINT LOUIS IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

Rose Ganz

We headed out on Easter Sunday, going west on highway 70. The sights along the way, remind us of journeys past. Grinding it out, constantly going through construction zones. Proud of America, seeking improvements to living conditions and infrastructure.

We are riding in a new, 2023 Honda Pilot, learning the many automated features on this model. Learning the many settings to the cruise control; following distance, economy setting, driver attention level. It is a challenge to keep up with all this technology.

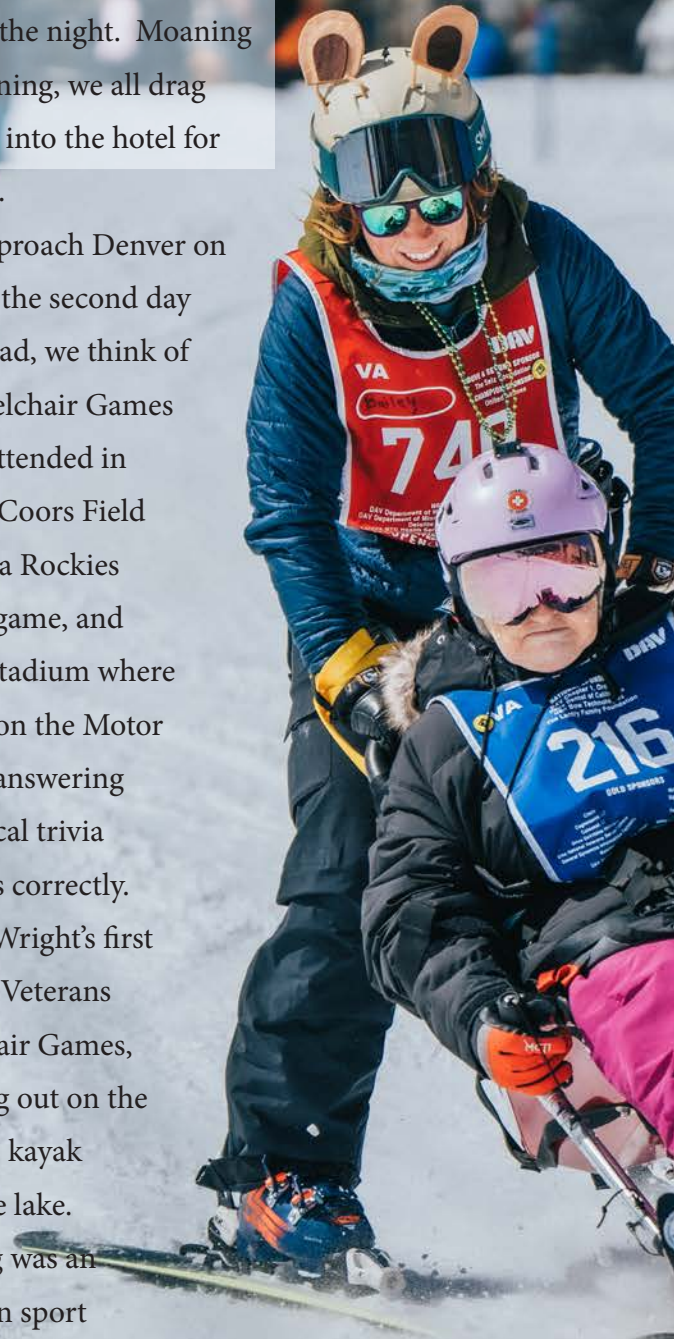
As we go through Kansas City we talk about the Royals games we've attended, and PVA members that attended with us. The Boccia Nationals, and the Mid-America Games; Boccia Regionals we've participated in there. As we pass the oil rigs pumping, Victor reminisces about his time at Fort Riley, Kansas. Victor's son, Benjamin was born there at St Marie's Hospital, in Manhattan, KS, where we owned a house. As we go by the towns, we remember staying in so many of these cities, on our way to Recreational Rehabilitation Clinics. And then there are the memories of convoying out with other St Louis Team members. Like Chasing Joel in his big green, Ford van, 427 engine, four wheel drive, leaving Mike and Jamie and us in the dust. Laughing at the Team member that got popped by the radar gun, laughing at how the police were disgusted that we were disabled veterans going to an official veteran function. Almost always getting away with just a warning!

Finding a hotel, and all of us staying in the same place. Team building, supporting one another and the safety net in case of breakdown. And as we just can't take

another painful mile, is when the decision is made to find a hotel for the night. Moaning and groaning, we all drag our butts into the hotel for the night.

As we approach Denver on Monday, the second day on the road, we think of the Wheelchair Games that we attended in Denver. Coors Field to watch a Rockies baseball game, and Bronco Stadium where LaRoy won the Motor Rally by answering all the local trivia questions correctly. Charley Wright's first National Veterans Wheelchair Games, and going out on the prairie to kayak on a huge lake. Kayaking was an exhibition sport that year.

We are climbing mountains as we drive past Denver. Majestic, snow capped mountain tops, and you can see forever up there. We see the old towns, wooden build-



ings straight out of a cowboy movie. The old relics of tractors and snowplows, and the remains of mineshafts along the highways edge.

Throughout this road trip, we are day dreaming of what it would be like to get an abandoned ranch, and what animals or hobbies we would establish there. The privacy, unique environment at each location, how we would tough it out and make our stake in our own remote piece of America.

After we pass Vail and descend down a valley between mountains, it seems like hours later, we come to Glenwood Springs. This is where we get off highway 70 and start to climb up a mountain pass, on highway 82, towards Aspen for about an hour. Just before we get to Aspen airport, we turn right on Brush Creek Road and continue to climb for another twenty minutes into Snowmass Village. We made it, so many familiar faces

and relief that we can get out of the car for the next week!

We got an email from Matt, just before we left, saying parking would be difficult to find, first come first serve, maybe \$ 50 dollars a day to park. I drop Rose at the hotel and go find a parking spot about a half mile away. I'm trying to process how many trips it will take, to get our baggage and personal stuff down to the hotel.

Then Rose calls and urges me to come back to unload the car in front of the hotel, in

the middle of the chaos of VA Shuttles lined up, bringing the veterans and their bags up from

Aspen Airport, to the same hotel. I abandon my parking spot and come back to the hotel, unload our stuff onto the bellhop luggage cart. Then a hotel guy tells us: "If you give me your keys, valet parking is free if you are staying here, and I will go park your car." My eyes are wide and I am not convinced that I didn't just get sucker punched by another scheme to rip me off. But we are now able to enter our room and breathe, stretch, and shower. We did get valet parking for free, all week!

What a comfort when Matt L. text that he was at the Aspen Airport, and would see us in about an hour. Knowing your coach is there, is such a boost to your confidence.

We wore a coat out the door every morning, then the weather would warm up quickly. The sun is very intense up at 7,000 feet. All of the St Louis participants were either on Team Lodge Pole (can walk) or Team Bear Bottom (in a chair). Wednesday Rose went handcycling in the town of Basalt. Thursday Rose went downhill skiing on a sit down bi-ski. Then we went with Ann and Ron to get ice cream, there in Snowmass Village, where we were staying the week. Friday Rose went cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Saturday Rose skied the downhill again, but it was 18 degrees, so that required more layers of padding (ski pants and a heavier coat). Sunday Rose skied the downhill race in 26 seconds, her personal best. Then we joined our team for lunch and a few desserts. Then we attended the closing ceremonies and had dinner with the whole St Louis Team. Monday morning we gave Coach Matt a hug goodbye, and began our drive through those majestic mountains once again. And it is literally all down hill from there to St Louis. It was a smooth ride home, after a glorious week of meeting new St Louis Team members and catching up with veterans we have known for years.

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# Columbus Ohio, Here we Come!

*Cynthia Rockwell*

It is 0600, the car is packed, we have to make a quick stop for gas and coffee, finally, we are on our way, to “Jack Attack”. Jack Attack is a regional Boccia tournament held in Columbus, Ohio.

We decided to take our time and enjoy the ride. There were three of us that went along on this road trip. Kim, my sister, Melenie, my niece, and me. On the way there we stopped at Cracker Barrel for a delicious big country breakfast and a little shopping in the Cracker Barrel Country Store.

While cruising up highway 70 we passed through Effingham Indiana where we saw the first of three giant crosses. This cross is called “Cross at the Crossroads” It was constructed in 2001 and it is made of metal. The cross is the second largest cross in the United States. According to Trip Advisor, this cross was constructed at a cost of mega millions. The cross was constructed for two reasons, pride and arrogance.

To our surprise there were three of these large crosses along the way to Jack Attack.

The second cross stands at 108 feet tall and it is located in the city of Richmond, Indiana.

The third cross is in Nelsonville, Ohio. The cross is called the Elizabeth Schwartz Memorial Cross. The cross stands 65 feet tall and it is the only large cross monument dedicated to a woman.

We finally arrived in Columbus and the craziest thing happened. The three of us arrived at the same time as my fellow teammate, Mike O’Brien who was traveling with his sister, Shelly. Mike and Shelly turned the weekend into a visit with Shelly’s daughter and grandkids. Their family enjoyed the time they spent together at Jack Attack.

Saturday morning finally arrived, breakfast and Boccia, my two favorite things. Jack Attack was a fairly large tournament as far as regional tournaments go. The tournament ended Sunday afternoon.

After Boccia on Saturday evening, we went to have dinner at Thurman’s. Thurman is a little bar and grill that had been highlighted on the Food Network. Thurman’s is known for their burgers. The place was packed, and we had to wait for an hour

for a table. We considered leaving, but we were so glad that we stuck it out, it was worth the wait, The food was amazing, and our waiter was the best. The whole experience was really great.

If you ever find yourself in Columbus, Ohio, do yourself a favor and make your way to Thurman’s for a gigantic hamburger and fries.

Home at last. It is always fun to take a road trip and have some family bonding time, but it sure feels good to be home.

My next excursion is a Bass tournament in Kuttawa, Kentucky,



Want your story to get featured in the next issue of the Gateway Gazette? Email your submissions to [katarina@gatewaypva.org](mailto:katarina@gatewaypva.org)!

All qualifying submissions, even if unpublished, will earn you 15 sports points.



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Saint Louis, MO 63132



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